



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/661,506	09/13/2000	Robert Warren Schmidt	RCA 89,970	7961

7590

03/07/2002

Joseph S. Tripoli
Thomson Multimedia Licensing Inc
Patent Operation Two Independence Way
P.o Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312

EXAMINER

TRA, ANH QUAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Office Action Summary	Applicant(s)	
	SCHMIDT, ROBERT WARREN	
	Application No.	Art Unit
	09/661,506	2816
	Examiner	
	Quan Tra	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the amendment filed 1/24/2002. The allowable subject matter of claims 2, 3 and 6 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scofield et al. (USP 5841879). For claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 the term “center tapped ground of the split level power supply” given the broadest reasonable interpretation based on the specification and claims, is interpreted to mean a ground which is center level between the two split of a split level power supply.

For claim 1, Scofield discloses in figure 9 a circuit for operating an amplifier designed for operation with a single ended power supply (the opamp 126 used with split level supply (V+ and V-) is also designed for a single power supply in that it cab also operate to provide an output with only a single supply V+ and ground if such voltages were applied), the circuit comprising: first means (the positive power supply terminal of the opamp 126 connected to V+) for connecting a first polarity power supply terminal (V+); second means (the negative power supply terminal of the opamp 126 connected to V-); and means (resistor 138) for connecting a signal input terminal (inverting input terminal of 126) of the opamp 126 to a center tapped ground (ground connected through 138 is a center tapped ground un that is the median point between

Art Unit: 2816

two same voltages with opposite polarity, V+ and V-); and wherein another signal input terminal (non-inverting input terminal of 126) of the opamp 126 is coupled to a signal source referenced to ground without any DC isolation capacitors connected in series with the amplifier and the output terminal of the opamp is coupled to a signal load referenced to ground without any DC isolation capacitors connected in series with the amplifier.

For claim 3, Scofield teaches that figure 9 is for driving the localized speaker. Therefore, it is inherent that the signal load is a loudspeaker having one terminal referenced to ground.

For claim 5, the split power supply (V+ and V-) also provides power to other circuits (142).

For claim 7, the amplifier has an AC reference (the non-inverting input node of 126 which is connected to resistor 124 at the tap-point) which is connected to the DC ground through 124.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scofield et al. (USP 5841879).

For claim 4, figure 9 amplifier circuit includes a plurality of amplifiers (162, 142). Scofield fails to show that the figure 9 circuit is integrated on a common substrate having a same substrate bias. However, it is notoriously well known in the art that integration on a common

Art Unit: 2816

substrate provides added benefit of reducing space and cost. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to integrate the figure 9 circuit of scofield on a common substrate for the purpose of saving space and cost.

For claim 6, Figure 9 fails to teach other circuit performing other function is a DVD payer 1. However, it is seen intended use for using Scofield et al.'s figure 9 in the DVD player.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. These references are cited as interest because they show some circuits analogous to the claimed invention.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quan Tra whose telephone number is 703-308-6174. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M..


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on 703-308-4876. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



QT

March 5, 2002



Terry D. Cunningham
Primary Examiner